

2008 was a fantastic year for Football for Change, we provided six weeks of coaching, and with the aid of the English FA and RAF Lyneham, delivered over 800 items, like England football shirts, to children in Iraq. With ongoing assistance from Soccerscool in Islington, 2009 promises to be equally successful with the first project already complete and the next training session in planning. This year will also see our aims extended to include in the project the beginning of our much-awaited football coaching sessions for girls.

A New Year – A Great Start

FFC Press Release – March 2009



This February Sadiq was back in Iraq for the third coaching series in our project. The sessions in Basra and Baghdad included 60 adults and 40 young

people. With the emphasis on developing coaching skills, the participants completed an intensive four-day programme involving exercises and games with the young footballers. Each participant was proudly presented with a certificate which will enable them to coach young footballers in their own local communities.

Between coaching programmes Sadiq distributed over 800 England football shirts, donated by the English FA, to residents in local neighbourhoods in Basra and Baghdad. Children of all ages enjoyed receiving a t-shirt and they were especially appreciated by the children at a Baghdad orphanage.

Shawbury Based Football Shirts Appeal Joins FA

RAF Extra Time - September 2008 [edited]



The RAF Shawbury based 'Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal' has set up a link with the Football Association to provide football shirts to a training project in Baghdad, Iraq.

The delivery of 620 England football shirts was made possible through the assistance of the Royal Air Force Football Association and RAF Lyneham.

The appeal, run by Squadron Leader Neil Hope, Community Relations Officer at Shawbury, has now been running for 2 years.

Professional football coach Sadiq Alwohali has travelled to Baghdad to take soccer skills to some of the most dangerous streets in the world. "I am thrilled to be going back to work with these youngsters" says Sadiq. "I know the situation is still dangerous but this is really worth doing."

Neil said, "This appeal has become a huge success. It is an amazing feeling to make an agreement with the FA to donate England shirts for this and other deliveries. I am also pleased to be able to assist Sadiq and I am indebted to the RAF FA for the assistance it has provided"



Boys warm up during a soccer training session by Sadiq al-Wohali

Reuters - January 2008

Boys warm up during a soccer training session by Sadiq Al-Wohali in Baghdad January 2008.

Al-Wohali, a 42 year-old soccer coach who spent most of this decade teaching British youngsters the "beautiful game" in London, is on a brief mission in Iraq to help coaches transform young potential into stardom.



The big picture so far.

With the grassroots support of local people in Hackney and Islington and 'Small Voice', Football for Change has so far delivered six weeks of coaching to 180 adult coaches and 120 children in four cities across Iraq.



**December 2007
/Jan 2008**

- Baghdad.

August 2008

- Baghdad.

- Amarra.

- Nasiriyah.

February 2009

- Basra.

- Baghdad.

The road ahead.

As part of our longer term goal, Football for Change will begin work during 2009 to involve girls in Iraq in the fun and benefits of our project so far.

With support from women who currently work with children in Baghdad, our aim is to encourage involvement in the coaching program to provide women coaches with the skills to start up and coach girls teams locally. Fundraising will course be the key to the success of this expansion of our project and as always is the most challenging part of our work. To kick off the project we are holding a fundraising comedy event at The Lion in Stoke Newington on March 24th. The event is being generously supported by Shazia Mirza, Maureen Younger, and other local comedians who will be keeping us in stitches for a couple of hours and in funds for a few more months.